

AP United States History

Summer Task: "Doing History"

4. What is History?

In this summer task, you have been exploring the way in which historians investigate the past. Hopefully, this has given you a chance to begin to develop your own interpretation of the nature of historical investigation and your own preliminary definition of history.

As your final activity for the summer, I want to give you a chance to demonstrate your new knowledge and an opportunity to give me a glimpse into your writing ability/style.

Instructions:

Write an essay (sometimes you may have used the term ECR. The College Board calls essays "free response questions" that responds to the following prompt:

Describe how you would investigate the following question, "what was it like to be a colonist in Maryland before the American Revolution?"

- An introductory/thesis paragraph that introduces the essay and gives the reader an idea as to what the essay will include.
- Two to three main body paragraphs in which you explain your analysis of the way you would approach a historical problem and some of the problems you may encounter.
- A solid conclusion paragraph that restates the purpose of the essay with some "style".

Remember to do your best writing. You do not actually have to investigate the question just explain how you might go about it.

Final Summer Task Check List& Grading Rubric

To ensure you have completed all required activities for the summer task, use the following check list:

_____ Categorization Activity (Instructions on p. 1) **[HW FOR COMPLETION – 10 POINTS]**

_____ Concept News Articles (Instructions on p. 4) **[FORMATIVE – 30 POINTS]**

_____ "Facts" Venn diagram and analysis questions (Instructions on p. 11) **[FORMATIVE – 20 POINTS]**

_____ Summary Free Response Question (Instructions above on p. 12) **[SUMMATIVE – 25 POINTS]**

Modified from:

Bartlett, I., Fenton, E., Fowler, D., & Mandelbaum, S. (1969). An introduction to the study of history. In *A new history of the United States* (pp. 1 – 16) [Introduction]. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.